

Petition P4-0021, filed on behalf of Virginia apple producers.

Background:

On February 23, 2004, the ***Federal Register*** published notice that a group of apple growers in Rappahannock County, Virginia, had filed a petition for trade adjustment assistance on behalf of all apple growers in Virginia.

The petition indicated that the marketing year impacted by imports of apple juice concentrate was July - June 2003. The 5-year base period used for the purpose of a price comparison was 1998-2002.

Analysis:

According to data provided by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the 5-year average producer price during 1997-2001 was \$144.40 per ton, resulting in an 80 percent TAA trigger of \$115.52 per ton. The market price for processing apples in 2002 was \$136.00 per ton, or \$20.48 per ton above the trigger.

Reason for denial of petition:

The prices of processing apples did not decline by more than 20 percent in 2002, a necessary condition for TAA. To qualify for TAA, prices must decline by more than 20 percent for the most recent marketing year when compared to the 5 previous year average. A notice to deny the petition was published in the ***Federal Register*** on April 5, 2004.